made by the Central Water Commission, the per capita water availability in 1996 as 2000 cubic metres and about 1479 cubic metres by the year 2016 AD due to increase in population. As the per capita water availability on an average for the country as a whole is still higher than 1000 cubic metres, India is not facing water scarcity. Keeping in view the future needs of water, the Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects. Government is also promoting rain water harvesting and watershed management.

Contamination of Ground Water in Delhi

1032. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by Government to assess the extent of contamination of ground water in Delhi and the population dependent on the ground water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to improve the quality of the ground water in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board and the Central Pollution Control Board have recently carried out joint studies for assessing the quality of ground water in Delhi. A detailed report of the studies is under preparation.

(c) In order to ensure potability of water, Delhi Water Board has set up six laboratories in which 250 to 300 samples drawn from the distribution systems, i.e., public stand posts, public places and individual taps are checked everyday. Junior Engineers deployed by the Delhi Water Board have been provided kits to check the quality of water during their round in the area. In addition, ground water drawn from Ranney Wells is also treated at Nitrification and Ozonization Water Treatment Plant before being supplied for drinking purposes.

देश में सिंचाई क्षमता का सृजन

1033. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इस शताब्दी के अन्त तक सभी राज्यों के लिए सिंचाई क्षमता के सृजन संबंधी कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या उस उद्देश्य हेतु कोई धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने गुजरात तथा अन्य राज्यों के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए कोई समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (च) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Study on Water Resources

1034. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the FRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on the water resources in the dry areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to tap these resources and provide drinking water to the villages of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Water Commission has assessed the availability of water resources in the 99 drought prone districts of the country.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, projects are formulated by State Governments to tap water resources to provide drinking water facilities in the regions where it is considered essential including drought prone areas.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in drinking water supply to villages, Central Government provides funds by way of 100 per cent grants under Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

Community Irrigation Project

1035. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote Community Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction in the last three years;

(c) whether the list of Central funding of such projects in Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the number of Community Irrigation Projects proposed to be executed in Orissa in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Minsitry of Water resources has no proposal at present to promote Community Irrigation Projects, However, under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, Ganga Kalyan Yojana to provide irrigation through exploitation of Ground Water (Bore wells and Tubewells) to individuals and groups of samll and marginal farmers living below poverty line is in operation.

(b) the Ganga Kalyan Yojana which was started with effect from 1st February, 1997 under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), is now being implemented as an independent scheme from 1997-98. Yearwise Central releases for last two years are as follows:—

(i) 1996-97	Rs. 90.82 crore
(ii) 1997-98	Rs. 100.00 crore

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise with reference to (c) above.

Funds for sinking of artesian wells in Gujarat

1036. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds to Gujarat Government for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to provide funds to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Central Government do not have any scheme under which funds could be provided to the Government of Gujarat for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of State.

Linking of rivers in the country

1037. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link all rivers in the country together;